

active member of the community, serving as a Scout Master and being involved in youth baseball. He is an active member of the Owingsville United Methodist Church.

Mr. Baber and other members of the Greatest Generation served their country bravely and are true heroes. Mr. Baber and his fellow men and women in uniform secured our freedoms for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American, a protector of freedom, and an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for roll call votes on Thursday, May 24, 2018 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on final passage of H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. This legislation provides our men and women in uniform with the resources they need to protect our freedom at home and abroad, and fully funds the highest pay raise for our troops in the last nine years.

JACOB HERNANDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jacob Hernandez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jacob Hernandez received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jacob Hernandez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jacob Hernandez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING DR. THOMAS A. KAZEE

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Thomas A. Kazee upon his retirement as the 23rd president of the University of Evansville.

A political scientist by preparation, this Ohio native became the face of UE. While reaffirming its decades-old tradition of world-renowned higher education, Dr. Kazee championed the

role of the modern university and wisely recognized that it must continue to evolve and respond to contemporary challenges.

As creator of the "UE Guarantee," Dr. Kazee boldly defined UE's commitment to its students with emphasis on substantial financial aid, internships, international study, and graduation in four years. He prompted the University to reexamine its career development strategy even after graduation. He led a collaboration with the Indiana University School of Medicine and its crosstown neighbor, the University of Southern Indiana, in a transformational Center for Health Sciences in downtown Evansville. He orchestrated a master plan that led to construction of student townhouses, renovations of key academic buildings, and positioned the stately Lincoln Avenue campus for decades to come.

With profound gratitude for Dr. Kazee's career as an academican, community leader, and outstanding steward of a great university, I join all Hoosiers in extending my best wishes in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WOODY PETTUS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, Woodrow "Woody" Pettus was a true Virginia gentleman. For 58 years, he worked at The Homestead, a historic resort nestled in the mountains of beautiful Bath County, Virginia. He was an institution there, known for his knack for remembering faces and names and always greeting guests and friends with a smile.

Woody left this earthly life for his heavenly home on May 16, 2018, at the age of 77. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ruby Alloway Pettus, as well as two children, Woodrow Houston Pettus and wife Helen, and Lisa Pettus Aguilar, and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and special family members. My prayers for peace and comfort are with them as they reflect on their loss and remember the memories they shared with Woody, affectionately known as "Pa" to some.

Woody was born on March 28, 1941, to the late Walter Woodrow Pettus and Nellie Moats Pettus in Warm Springs, Virginia. He started caddying at The Homestead as a teenager, and instantly made an impression on guests and co-workers alike. While he loved the game of golf, he wanted something with more history and decided to move to the stables and work with his father who was one of the senior Livery Drivers. Woody eventually moved on to the Dining Room where he served in a variety of roles, including his most recent position of Maitre d'. In 2003, Golfstyles magazine recognized him as the Maitre d'Hotel of the Year. Last September, Historic Hotels of America honored him as Ambassador of the Year, which is presented to an individual who has dedicated his or her career to a historic hotel for at least 25 years and has shown exemplary hospitality and service to the hotel and its guests. Woody was one of five generations of Pettuses who have worked at The Homestead. He was also a member of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Warm Springs, where he was baptized as a youth.

The Homestead is a special place for me and my family. Woody was a dear friend and always greeted my family warmly. He and I enjoyed catching up frequently over the years I know this is a sentiment widely shared as evidenced by the outpouring of support for him when his cancer diagnosis was announced and now in his passing. For many guests, the staff at The Homestead has become an extended family.

The weekend of June 1st, his family, friends, and his beloved "Homestead family" will gather to celebrate his life and pay tribute to his long and vibrant legacy—rich with kindness and a dedication to serving others. It is only fitting that he be celebrated at the place that he loved so dearly by the people he built relationships with over the past six decades.

Woody's presence will be dearly missed in the hallways and dining room of The Homestead, but certainly not forgotten. I know that I will long remember his kind smile and gentle demeanor, just like many others he met over the years. Woody was one in a million, and we are all better for having known him.

He sums it up best himself. When asked what he loves most about what he does, Woody said, "When I can look down the hall leading to the dining room and see some of my guests coming toward me, guests that I've known for years, coming back. That's when I know that my life has not been in vain."

HONORING MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER BRITT SLABINSKI

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I rise to honor Master Chief Petty Officer Britt Slabinski, a native of Northampton, Massachusetts.

Yesterday, Mr. Slabinski was awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Authorized by and awarded in the name of Congress, the Medal of Honor acknowledges those service members who display unparalleled bravery and a willingness to risk their own lives which clearly and conspicuously distinguishes them above their comrades. Mr. Slabinski is only the 12th living servicemember to be awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery displayed in Afghanistan.

In the early morning hours of March 4th, 2002, during the mountaintop battle of Takur Ghar, Mr. Slabinski led a reconnaissance team in support of a major coalition offensive against Al-Qaida forces in the valley below. According to the United States Navy, after enemy fire brought down one of his team's helicopters, "without hesitation, then-Senior Chief Slabinski made the selfless and heroic decision to lead the remainder of his element on an immediate and daring rescue back to the mountaintop."

The Navy notes that Mr. Slabinski, "with bullets piercing his clothing, repeatedly charged into deadly fire to personally engage the enemy bunker" before the situation became untenable. With daylight approaching, he maneuvered his team to a more defensible

position, requested reinforcements, and directed the medical care of his severely wounded teammates," including "carrying a teammate through waist-deep snow during an arduous trek across precipitous terrain."

Mr. Speaker, the Medal of Honor reflects the acclaim and appreciation of our entire nation. It reminds each of us of our sacred obligation to look after those who serve our country and defend our freedom. Britt Slabinski put his life on the line not only for the sake of his fellow soldiers, but for all of us. On behalf of his hometown of Northampton, and the entire United States Congress, I offer him my most sincere and heartfelt thanks and gratitude for his service to our nation.

HONORING DR. SUSAN WILLIAMS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Susan Williams, a world renowned marine ecologist who died last month in a tragic car accident. Dr. Williams' scientific research on coastal ecology and her activism surrounding the expansion of marine sanctuaries have left an indelible impact on the world. Born in 1951, Dr. Susan Williams earned a bachelor's of science in biology, a master's degree in biological oceanography, and a doctoral degree in botany and marine biology. After finishing her doctoral program in 1981, she conducted research at major marine laboratories across the world for three years. By 1986, after serving as the science director for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's National Undersea Research Program, Dr. Williams started teaching at universities while continuing her research. She became the director of the Coastal and Marine Institute at San Diego State University in 1990, and the director of the Bodega Marine Laboratory at the University of California Davis in 2000. Dr. Williams stepped down from that role in 2010, and became a full-time professor and researcher at the University of California, Davis, until her death in 2018.

Throughout her career, Dr. Williams' research underlined the connection between the health of oceans and the communities surrounding them. Her work on the ecology of nearshore marine ecosystems, seagrass, coral reefs, and invasive species helped illustrate the impact of warming oceans on coastal environments and yielded strategies for mitigating those impacts. Her work was heralded by the international scientific community, and provided the foundation for critical changes to state and federal policies addressing the management of coastal environments. As an educator and mentor, she had an immense impact: she supported students around the world, encouraged women in science, bridged international divides in her collaborations, and empowered others to be leaders in the field.

During Dr. Williams' ten-year tenure as the director of the Bodega Marine Laboratory, she brought scientists from around the world to conduct research at the laboratory, while at the same time working with local schools and the community in adopting conservation practices based on the latest scientific discoveries. Through this work and her ongoing research,

Dr. Williams became a valued advisor for state and federal officials seeking to protect the California coast. Nowhere was this more apparent than through her work in significantly expanding two national marine sanctuaries off the coast of Northern California: the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and the Gulf of the Farallones, now known as the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Both sanctuary boundary expansions were proposed in legislation in 2005, and were ultimately expanded to more than twice their original size by the Obama administration in 2015. Throughout that ten-year process, Dr. Williams was the driving force that propelled the policy forward.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Susan Williams' lifelong pursuit of knowledge has left a positive legacy across our country and the world. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to her today, and honor the memory of a scientist who believed that no problem was insurmountable.

BELEN TZINTZUN CHAVEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Belen Tzintzun Chavez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Belen Tzintzun Chavez is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Belen Tzintzun Chavez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Belen Tzintzun Chavez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

ARCHBISHOP NAUMANN SPEAKS TRUTH TO NATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Kansas City Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann was the keynote speaker at the 14th annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast here in Washington, D.C.

Archbishop Naumann's incisive remarks were extraordinarily inspiring, hope filled, uplifting, yet challenging. Like a modern-day Jeremiah, he spoke truth to the nation. After detailing some of the "threats to the well-being of our nation," Archbishop Naumann said "However, the most serious crisis for our country is none of the above, but rather a God-crisis—a crisis of Faith. . . .

He said, "We have no permanent enemies, but only confused brothers and sisters who

have yet to encounter the Lord of Life and to experience His unconditional love and amazing grace. . . . It is our task to reclaim our culture one mind, one heart, one soul at a time."

I respectfully ask my colleagues in both the House and Senate and on both sides of the aisle to take a few minutes to read the Archbishop's remarkable words.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC PRAYER BREAKFAST

Washington, D.C., May 24, 2018

I. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is a great honor to be with you this morning and to address this distinguished gathering. As we assemble as a people of Faith to pray for our nation, we must first give thanks for our many blessings. We enjoy religious liberty, freedom of speech and expression, the right to assemble—to name only a few of the freedoms for which our Founders fought and subsequent generations sacrificed heroically to preserve. Despite our economic challenges, middle class Americans enjoy creature comforts that were unavailable to kings of earlier ages. For all this and so much more, we must give thanks to God from whom all blessings flow.

At the same time, there are certainly many challenges facing our nation. Within the past week we had another deadly school shooting. There are several tense international situations, e.g. the Holy Land, Iran, Syria and Korea. Many Christians throughout the world experience brutal religious persecution. Racial tensions remain high in many cities. One third of American children are being raised in homes without their biological fathers. The legal status of more than a million young people who were brought to this country as children remains in limbo. In Massachusetts, Illinois and the District of Columbia Catholic Charities is no longer able to place children for adoption. Our nation continues to give legal protection to doctors and organizations that profit from the killing of more than one million innocent unborn children. There are efforts in the courts and some states legislatures to coerce Catholic Hospitals to perform abortions.

Unfortunately, this is by no means an exhaustive list of the serious threats to the well-being of our nation. However, the most serious crisis for our country is none of the above, but rather a God-crisis—a crisis of Faith.

II. IS GOD DEAD?

Is God Dead? This was the title cover story for the April 8, 1966 edition of Time Magazine, when I was a junior in High School and Time was the most influential periodical in the United States. The 1966 article began with these words:

"Is God dead? It is a question that tantalizes, both believers, who perhaps secretly fear that he is, and atheists, who possibly suspect the answer is No.

"Is God dead? The three words represent a summons to reflect on the meaning of existence. No longer is the question the taunting jest of skeptics for whom unbelief is the test of wisdom and for whom Nietzsche is the prophet who gave the right answer a century ago. . . ."

At the time, the subject was considered shocking and provocative. I was reminded of this article while reading the 2017 book, *The Benedict Option*, by Rod Dreher who makes the case that we need a new St. Benedict to form vibrant Christian communities to preserve the truth of the Gospels during a new Dark Age of unbelief.

Dreher notes the decline in church attendance, the large number of Millennials who profess atheism or even more commonly